

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Slough Wellbeing Board **DATE:** 28th September 2016

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WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR INFORMATION, COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

HOUSING

1. Purpose of Report

This report provides the Slough Wellbeing Board with an opportunity to input into the emerging priorities for the Council's Housing Strategy.

2. Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The Slough Wellbeing Board is recommended to provide input to help shape the Housing Strategy.

3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan

Housing is a key determinant of health and wellbeing and it is a priority in the new Wellbeing Strategy. It also reflects a number of key outcomes in the Five Year Plan.

4. Other Implications

(a) **Financial** – None.

(b) **Risk Management** – None.

(c) **Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications** - There are none identified at this point.

(d) **Equalities Impact Assessment** - This will be undertaken as specific plans are developed to deliver the priorities.

(e) **Workforce** – None.

5. Summary

This item provides members with an early opportunity to:

- Understand the existing and anticipated housing challenges facing the borough;
- Discuss and influence the draft outcomes and objectives that are being considered for

- inclusion in the Council's forthcoming Housing Strategy to tackle these challenges; and
- Understand the role of the Wellbeing Board and our partnership network in addressing housing issues to improve outcomes for people in Slough.

6. Supporting Information

In looking at improving its ways of working the Board has restructured the format of its meetings to allow for a themed discussion. Housing is the first subject for such as discussion and there will be a presentation at the Board meeting to facilitate the conversation.

Housing has been identified as one of four key priorities in our new Wellbeing Strategy. At the last Wellbeing Board there was some discussion around what the Board could practically do to make a difference to Housing outcomes in Slough over the next year.

The presentation will explain that there are five initial objectives -

- Objective 1: Supply of New Homes
- Objective 2: Private Rented Sector
- Objective 3: Council Homes and the Housing Revenue Account
- Objective 4: Homelessness and Housing Need
- Objective 5: Special Housing Needs and Vulnerable Groups

The Council is required to produce a Housing Strategy that sets out its strategic approach for housing services and details how the Council will enable the delivery of these services.

The forthcoming Strategy will provide a comprehensive picture of the current housing needs and demands in Slough and set out how the Council will counter existing and anticipated challenges.

Whilst the primary focus of this Strategy is housing, the scope will reach far beyond: poor housing or lack of a home has a detrimental impact on many areas of strategic importance to Board, including mental and physical health and wellbeing, employment, education and community safety.

7. Comments of Other Committees

None at this stage but Health Scrutiny Panel have requested to look at aspects of Housing.

8. Conclusion

We will be working up the detail of the Strategy and it is important that we reflect the needs and perspectives of our partners. The views of the Board are therefore important in shaping the Strategy.

The Board is also reminded that it considered whether a lead officer for housing should be a member of the board. This can be discussed in light of the outcome of the discussion and whether attending on occasion is an option.

9. Appendices

None.

10. Background Papers

None.